

Appl. No. 10/027,267
Amdt. dated November 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2004

Amendments to Specification

Please replace the second paragraph on page 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In an alternate embodiment, the cover (42) can also have at least a portion of the surface treated with a suitable mucoadhesive to assist the absorbent article (20) in maintaining contact with the tissues of the vestibule (22) of the female wearer. These adhesives allow attachment of the absorbent article (20) to mucosal surfaces such as those of the inner labia. In use, the adhesive remains integrated with the absorbent article (20), which can still absorb menstrual fluid. Suitable mucoadhesives include copolymers of polyethylene-polypropylene-polyethylene (PEO-PPO-PEO) triblocks with chitosan and polyacrylic acid. Another representative example is the hydrophobically modified bioadhesive produced from hydroxyethyl methacrylate, methyl methacrylate, and acrylic acid. Yet another representative example is a polyacrylic acid based synthetic polymer known as Carbopol and described in J. Controlled Release 39 93, 1996. Further information regarding mucoadhesives may be found in "Physico-Chemical Properties of Water Insoluble Polymers Important to Mucin/Epithelial Adhesion," H. Park and J. Robinson, J. Controlled Release, Vol. 2, (1985), pp. 47-57; and in "Development and Evaluation of a Mucoadhesive Drug Delivery System for Dual-Controlled Delivery of Nonoxynol-9," C. Lee and Y. Chien, J. Controlled Release, Vol. 39 (1996), pp. 91-103 pp. 93-103, both of which are incorporated herein by reference. Any suitable mucoadhesive familiar to one skilled in the art can be used.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Active ingredients, such as pharmaceutical compounds (e.g., histidines, anti-inflammatory drugs, calcium or potassium channel blockers), antimicrobials, anesthetics, hormones or hormone inhibitors, pH control agents, and the like, can be provided in any known drug delivery medium that is placed within the absorbent article (20). An example is microencapsulation of the active ingredient in starch, dextran, or other degradable or soluble materials, such that microcapsules placed in the absorbent material of ~~the tampon~~ absorbent article (20) can permit gradual release of the active ingredient upon wetting, an increase in temperature, or physical contact. Another type of delivery system is the use of polymeric transport systems, which are materials that absorb materials and will release these materials when applied to a substrate.
